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STATINTL

## THE DEBATE '62—TELLING TALES?



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**DEBATE AND DECISION**—A Kennedy-Nixon TV meeting before the 1960 election. Center is Howard K. Smith, moderator of the historic debates between the Presidential candidates, at which the Cuba question arose.

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WASHINGTON.

The 1960 Presidential campaign exploded all over again in Washington yesterday with a dramatic political clash between President Kennedy and former Vice-President Nixon.

President Kennedy, through his press secretary, denied Mr. Nixon's charge that Mr. Kennedy's campaign statements had been "endangering the security" of the then-planned invasion of Cuba.

In his new book, Mr. Nixon charged that then Central Intelligence Agency director, Allen W. Dulles, had briefed

Mr. Kennedy during the campaign on plans for a CIA-supported Cuban invasion.

The President, in a statement issued by Pierre Salinger, his press secretary, denied this. His stand was backed up by Mr. Dulles in a statement issued two hours later.

CIA-backed Cuban exiles did invade their homeland on April 17, 1961, but the invasion failed. It was the biggest setback of Mr. Kennedy's administration.

Mr. Nixon, in his book "Six Crises," to be published by Doubleday & Co. March 29, charges that Mr. Kennedy had been told about the planned invasion by Mr. Dulles, but

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went ahead anyway and issued a statement on Oct. 20 urging that the U. S. air Cuban exiles.

The former Vice-President, who lost the election to Mr. Kennedy, charged that "Kennedy was endangering" the security of the whole operation by his public statement.

"There was only one thing I could do," Mr. Nixon wrote. "The covert operation had to be protected at all costs." As a result he wrote, he swung around "to the other extreme" and attacked Mr. Kennedy's proposal as "irresponsible."

Mr. Nixon says in his book that he was in a "rage" at Mr. Kennedy for boxing him in in this manner.

Mr. Salinger issued this statement:

"The President does not believe that intelligence briefing is a proper subject of public debate, but in the light of the account in Mr. Nixon's book it is necessary to say that then Sen. Kennedy was not told before the election of 1960 of the training of troops outside of Cuba or of plans for supporting an invasion of Cuba. Mr. Nixon's account is apparently based on a misunderstanding. Sen. Kennedy received two briefings from Mr. Allen Dulles of the CIA, the first on July 23, 1960, and the second on Sept. 19, 1960.

"The two briefings covered an over-all review of the world situation during which Cuba was mentioned. But Mr. Kennedy was first informed of the operation to which Mr. Nixon refers in a briefing by Allen Dulles and Richard Bissell of the CIA given in Palm Beach on Nov. 18, 1960.

Mr. Dulles retired as CIA director Nov. 29, 1961. Richard M. Bissell, CIA deputy director for plans, resigned last month.

#### Also Briefed by General

Mr. Kennedy was also briefed on Nov. 2, 1960, by Gen. Charles P. Cabell, then deputy director of CIA. Gen. Cabell also retired recently.

Gen. Cabell's briefing, unlike Mr. Dulles' briefings took place after Mr. Kennedy's Oct. 20 statement urging aid to Cuban exiles. Gen. Cabell briefed the Democratic Presidential candidate in an airplane en route to Los Angeles.

However, officials said yesterday that Gen. Cabell had not discussed Cuba with Mr. Kennedy and that the briefing concerned another subject.

Mr. Dulles is still acting as consultant to the CIA and was a member of the board of inquiry last month into the death of U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers. After the White House had issued its statement, he said in part:

"There has been here, I believe, an honest misunderstanding. This was probably due to the nature of the message Mr. Nixon writes he received as to these briefings. The Cuban situation was, of course, dealt with in the briefings I gave to Sen. Kennedy. The last briefing I gave him was over a month before the debate in which the issue arose. My briefings were intelligence briefings on the world situation. They did not cover our own government's plans or programs for action, overt or covert."

Although Mr. Dulles did not elaborate on his statement, it is known that his position is that he briefed Mr. Kennedy on what the situation was in each country discussed, including Cuba, but did not tell him about United States policies and plans for dealing with those situations.

One high official, who declined to be quoted by name, said that the CIA did not ask Mr. Kennedy to stop talking about Cuba after his Oct. 20 statement.

Mr. Nixon wrote in his book that when the then Sen. Kennedy made his statement Oct. 20 he asked Fred Seaton, Secretary of the Interior, to call the White House and find out "whether or not Dulles had briefed Kennedy on the fact that for months the CIA had not only been supporting and assisting, but actually training, Cuban exiles for the eventual purpose of supporting an invasion of Cuba itself.

"Seaton reported back to me in half an hour. His answer: Kennedy had been briefed on this operation."

Mr. Nixon does not say in his book whether he asked Mr. Seaton whom he talked to at the White House, or whether Mr. Dulles was ever contacted at that time.

Mr. Seaton could not be reached for comment. Mr. Nixon, in Whittier, Calif., said he would not comment "until I have a chance to read the statement."

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